

## **Reduce Risk of Catastrophic Wildfire**

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** In FY 2015, the Hazardous Fuels program treated more than 2.3 million acres on National Forest System (NFS) and adjacent lands both inside and outside the wildland-urban interface (WUI). The Forest Service targeted the highest priority WUI acres for treatment, focusing on the communities that have implemented Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Also, in support of the National Cohesive Wildfire Management Strategy, the agency continued its strong focus on treating hazardous fuels in WUI that are identified in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan or equivalent plan including working with partner communities to develop and implement plans that help us target treatments and reduce the risk of wildfire.

**CHALLENGES:** The Forest Service is committed to restoring the resilience and diversity of fire-adapted ecosystems on the landscape, consistent with public safety needs. Wildfires continue to be larger and more difficult to suppress due to the effects of a changing climate, persistent drought and hazardous fuel conditions, and the increased size and complexity of housing developments adjacent to WUI. The agency is working with the Department of the Interior to employ a wildfire risk assessment framework that prioritizes areas based on the presence of multiple Highly Valued Resources and Assets and where risk can be efficiently mitigated.